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## PROPORTION OF THE SEXES.

An exception to the general rule for male births to exceed female births is found in the native races of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope.

Taking the figures for the colony proper for 1896 the following percentages are given : —

Race.	To each 100 girls.	To each 100 boys.
European . . . . .	102.37 boys or	97.69 girls.
Hottentot . . . . .	104.16 “ “	96.01 “
Fingo, Kaffir, and Betchuana . . . . .	99.65 “ “	100.35 “
Malay . . . . .	102.54 “ “	97.52 “
Mixed and other . . . . .	104.31 “ “	95.87 “
All races, . . . . .	102.15 “ “	97.90 “
Other than European, . . . . .	102.02 “ “	98.02 “

Placing the figures above quoted alongside of those given in the census table the following interesting comparison is given : —

Race.	Females alive, 7th April, 1891, to every 100 males.	Females born in 1896 to every 100 males.
Hottentot . . . . .	91.97	96.01
European . . . . .	92.38	97.69
Fingo, Kaffir, and Betchuana . . . . .	101.86	100.35
Mixed and other . . . . .	101.13	95.87
Malay . . . . .	107.17	97.52

A comparison of the census results for 1891 and 1875 as regards the old colony, *i. e.*, excluding Griqual and West and the Transkeian Territories, proves that the number of females to every 100 males of each race (except in the instance of the Malays) has increased two and a half per cent for Europeans, Fingoes, mixed and other, including Hottentots, and one-half of one per cent for Kaffirs and Betchuanas.

## VITAL STATISTICS OF WEST INDIES.

*Jamaica. Annual Report of the Registrar-General for the Year ended 31st March, 1897.* From the General Register Office, Spanish Town, November 29, 1897, pp. 44.

This report is unusually valuable because it presents vital statistics from other colonies in the West Indies, and the registrar, Mr. S. P. Smeeton, hopes to make these comparative reports more perfect, thus presenting a “complete summary of vital statistics for the West